

Message Text

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ORIGIN HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 176164

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: TRANSIT CENTER FOR INDOCHINESE REFUGEES IN THE
PHILIPPINES

REF: (A) SINGAPORE 2847, (B) MANILA 09934
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HONG KONG FOR LOWMAN

1. ON BASIS REFTELS, DEPARTMENT AGREES THAT OPPORTUNITY
FOR PHILIPPINE TRANSIT CAMP/CENTER (PTC) SHOULD BE EXPLORED,
AND THAT GENEVA SHOULD APPROACH UNHCR AT EARLIEST OPPORTU-
NITY WITH SUGGESTION THAT THEY DISCUSS SUCH A FACILITY WITH
THE GOP.

2. ESSENTIALS OF OUR POSITION MUST BE THAT (A) THIS MUST BE A UNHCR INITIATIVE AS FAR AS THE GOP IS CONCERNED; (B) THE PURPOSE OF PTC WOULD BE TO HOLD REFUGEES NOW FILLING CAMPS IN COUNTRIES OF FIRST ASYLUM AND THAT UNHCR WOULD GIVE ASSURANCE OF BEST EFFORT TO RESETTLE THEM AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME IN COUNTRY OF PERMANENT ASYLUM; (C) SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS USG WILL CONTRIBUTE TO INCREASED UNHCR COSTS INCURRED TO SUPPORT PTC, IF SATISFACTORY TERMS REACHED, BUT THAT ALL FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS RESPECTING PTC WOULD BE BETWEEN UNHCR AND GOP.

3. DEPARTMENT RECOGNIZES THAT GOP MAY WISH TO LIMIT REFUGEES ACCEPTED TO THOSE WITH ASSURANCES AND MAY WISH TO PLACE A TIME LIMIT ON THEIR ELIGIBILITY TO REMAIN IN THE PTC. ON ASSURANCES, WE WOULD PREFER THAT UNHCR SEEK A MORE GENERAL DEFINITION, SO AS NOT TO LIMIT REFUGEES FOR PTC TO THOSE AWAITING RESETTLEMENT IN U.S. AS FOR TIME LIMITS, TO BE USEFUL, REFUGEES SHOULD BE ABLE TO REMAIN FOR UP TO SIX MONTHS, AT LEAST, OR WITH REASONABLE GROUNDS FOR EXTENDING STAY FOR THOSE WITH REASONS FOR LONGER PROCESSING. IN TERMS OF PRESENT REFUGEE FLOW, PTC WOULD BE OF OPTIMUM USEFULNESS IF AVAILABLE BY SEPTEMBER. NEVERTHELESS, DESPITE IMPORTANCE OF GETTING UNHCR TO MAKE APPROACH TO GOP AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY, IT IS ALSO ESSENTIAL THAT THIS BE DONE IN SUCH A WAY AS TO MINIMIZE

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MINIMIZE THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE PTC COULD BE INCLUDED AMONG US-GOP BILATERAL ISSUES. CHRISTOPHER

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